



ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-3000

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Continuing Acquisition Education and Training for Acquisition Workforce
Members - Interim Policy

This memorandum establishes interim policy on continuing acquisition education and training for members of the Department's acquisition workforce.

This interim policy will enable acquisition workforce members who have completed all training and education requirements for the positions they encumber to have the opportunity to maintain their currency via continuing education and training courses. Final policy development defining acquisition workforce standards and a comprehensive program for professional development, including continuing education and training, is expected to be completed in 1997.

The attached interim policy is effective immediately for FY 1997.

Colleen A. Preston
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Acquisition Reform)

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Civilian Personnel Policy)
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Personnel Policy)
Component Acquisition Executives
Director, Acquisition Career Management, OASA(RD&A)
Director, Acquisition Career Management, OASN(RD&A)
Director, Acquisition Career Management, OASAF(A)
Deputy Director, Acquisition Career Management, OUSD(A&T)
Chairs, Acquisition Career Management Functional Boards
President, Defense Acquisition University

INTERIM POLICY ON CONTINUING ACQUISITION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

INTRODUCTION: DoD 5000.52M, *Career Development Program for Acquisition Personnel*, establishes the education, training and experience standards through Level III for acquisition personnel in each career field. The "Interim Policy on Continuing Acquisition Education and Training" which follows will test the feasibility of adding a new dimension of continuing acquisition education and training to existing education and training standards.

INTERIM POLICY: It is OUSD(A&T) policy that members of the acquisition workforce, who have completed all training and education requirements for the positions they encumber, be afforded the opportunity to receive an average of 40 contact hours annually of continuing education and training, or 80 contact hours over a two-year period. This policy is inapplicable to acquisition workforce personnel who have not yet completed mandatory training required for the positions they encumber. However, such personnel are encouraged to participate in continuing education activities to stay current with new acquisition policy initiatives. This interim policy is in effect for the period of FY 1997.

Continuing education and training hours may be satisfied in a variety of ways to be agreed upon between the workforce member and the supervisor, including participation in:

1. a recommended 16 hours annually of acquisition reform training, e.g., conferences, roadshows, satellite broadcasts, and AR Day activities;
2. academic course work to meet statutory standards for either the individual's career field or for membership in an Acquisition Corps;
3. mandatory and assignment-specific training required for higher levels of certification in one's career field;
4. course work to meet standards considered "desired" in one's career field, until both mandatory and desired education and training standards through Level III have been satisfied;
5. cross-training to attain certifications in multiple acquisition career fields; and
6. other acquisition-related courses, training conferences, seminars, distance learning, and comparable activities sponsored by DoD, its Components and schools, or by private and public organizations, institutions of higher education, and professional associations representative of acquisition career fields.

COSTS: During FY 1997, in keeping with current practice, costs for students attending Defense Acquisition University (DAU) mandatory or assignment-specific acquisition courses will be borne by the DAU, while the Components will pay tuition, travel and per diem for participation in all non-DAU courses. The DAU should program resources for a major expansion of continuing education offerings for future years in anticipation of a permanent policy requiring an average of 40 hours of continuing education and training annually for members of the Acquisition Corps and others who have completed all mandatory training.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Workforce supervisors shall ensure that FY 1997 Individual Development Plans prepared for their personnel include opportunities for participating in continuing acquisition education and training. The Director, Acquisition Education, Training and Career Development (AET&CD), together with the Chairs of the Functional Boards, the Directors of Acquisition Career Management, and the President DAU will assess possible approaches to establishing a program of continuing education and training for the acquisition workforce, and arrive at a coordinated policy and proposed program by October 1997.